

### Claims

1. A vehicle steering wheel comprising:
  - a steering wheel rim (12) having a skeleton (24), several predetermined deformation zones (18) with predetermined deformation directions ( $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ) being defined on said skeleton (24),  
5 and a rigid wood casing (20) surrounding said skeleton (24), said wood casing (20) having an inner side (26) facing said skeleton (24),
    - a deformation space ( $d_x$ ,  $d_y$ ) being provided in said deformation direction ( $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ) between said inner side (26) of said wood casing (20) facing said skeleton  
10 (24) and said skeleton (24) in said predetermined deformation zones (18),
      - said deformation space ( $d_x$ ,  $d_y$ ) being greater than a space between said inner side (26) of said wood casing (20) and said skeleton (24) in radial direction (R) in other zones.
- 15 2. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said deformation space ( $d_x$ ,  $d_y$ ) between said skeleton (24) and said inner side (26) of said wood casing (20) amounts to between 1 and 8 mm.
3. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said wood casing (20) surrounds a ring-shaped chamber (22) in which said skeleton (24) is arranged.
- 20 4. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 3, wherein a center point ( $M_2$ ) of said ring-shaped chamber (22) is staggered with respect to a center point ( $M_1$ ) of said steering wheel rim (12) by a deformation space ( $d_y$ ).
5. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein, seen in a plane perpendicular to a rotational axis ( $A_{Rot}$ ) of said steering wheel (10), said ring-shaped chamber (22) and said steering wheel rim (12) each have a form of a  
25 circular ring and are each defined by an imaginary circle located at their respective radial mid-point, said imaginary circles having equal circle radii and

the center points ( $M_1$ ,  $M_2$ ) of said imaginary circles being staggered by a deformation space ( $d_y$ ).

6. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 3, wherein said ring-shaped chamber (22) has an oval periphery perpendicular to a rotational axis ( $A_{Rot}$ ) of said steering wheel (10).  
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7. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 3, wherein a diameter of said ring-shaped chamber (22), measured in radial direction (R) of said steering wheel (10), varies along a circumference (U) of said wood casing (20) situated perpendicular to a rotational axis ( $A_{Rot}$ ) of said steering wheel (10).

10 8. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 7, wherein said diameter of said ring-shaped chamber (22) is greatest in said deformation zones (18).

9. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein between skeleton (24) and wood casing (20) at least one element (30) of a compressible material is arranged.

15 10. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein said wood casing (20) is composed of at least two shell parts.

11. The vehicle steering wheel according to Claim 10, wherein said shell parts of said wood casing (20) are solid and a ring-shaped chamber (22) taking up said skeleton (24) is formed by a milling out in said shell parts.

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